

## Biological Psychiatry Volumes 1 and 2.

**Biological Psychiatry, Hugo A. H. D'haenen, Johan A. denBoer, and Paul Willner, editors. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester UK: 2002. 1429 pages plus index.**

This major international undertaking is very different in style from the classic *Organic Psychiatry* by Lishman. There is less emphasis on the elicitation of psychological symptoms and physical signs and more on animal research, the basic sciences and psychopharmacological treatments. Psychotherapy and physical therapies such as electroconvulsive treatment are discussed when indicated.

The text is divided up into general topics (concepts, measuring), specific issues (eg. animal models, neuropsychology, neuroimaging, genetics) and sections on clinical syndromes.

The latter include cognitive, substance-related, schizophrenic, mood, anxiety, eating, sleep, and personality disorders. Each clinical syndrome is further broken up into more or less the same sub-headings, eg. mood disorders are

discussed thus: animal models, various biochemical and endocrine findings, psychophysiology, neuropsychology, functional neuroscience, imaging, genetics, neonatal developmental plasticity, female-specific disorders, and available treatments.

By far the most difficult chapter to read is the first one on 'conceptual issues'. In fact, as is fairly inevitable with contributions from many countries, the quality of expression varies from chapter to chapter. Two niggling criticisms are excess use of abbreviations, and covers that do not stay attached to the text. The references are fairly up to date (2001).

There is a wealth of information between the covers of these two volumes. Every self-respecting library should have them, and everyone involved in research should at least be able to get their hands on them.

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## Letters to the Editor

## Regulatory disorders and Asperger's syndrome: diagnosis in the first two year of life

Greenspan and Wieder have a category of regulatory disorders called active/aggressive type. They describe these as having motor planning difficulties, fine motor lags, problems with motor discharge patterns, listening fleetingly, poor attention, overly active, and aggressive with poor sleep, and problems modulating excitement. These features are really prodromal (if not actual) features of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and would be best seen as belonging to this classification rather than introducing a new classification of regulatory disorders.

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### Reference

1. Greenspan S, Wieder (1993). Regulatory disorders and Asperger's syndrome. *Handbook of Infant Mental Health*. Edited by Charles H Zeanah, Guilford Press, New York, Chapter 18, page 282-283.

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